



CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DIRECTIVE NO. 94-2

Reciprocal Agricultural Certification Program

The Chesapeake Bay Program and its jurisdictions are committed to restoring the Bay's water quality and living resources. The reduction of nutrients, specifically nitrogen and phosphorus, is essential to meeting these goals. In 1987, the Chesapeake Bay Agreement formally committed the signatories to a 40% reduction of nutrients by the year 2000. This commitment to restoring the Bay was reaffirmed and expanded with the 1992 Amendments which reflect the important role of the tributaries in the Bay's ecosystem. In 1992, recognizing the significant role that agriculture plays in the Bay's restoration, the Executive Council launched the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Initiative (AGNPSI) to develop strategies for the agricultural community to reach their portion of the 40% reduction. The Executive Council signed Directive No. 93-5, Agricultural Nonpoint Source Initiative based on the recommendations of AGNPSI Committee. The Directive called for state and federal agencies to develop a process to help farmers develop and implement site specific management plans for land, water and ecological resources (total resource management plans). These plans would include nutrient management, integrated pest management, soil conservation and water quality elements, forestry elements and others.

Based on additional recommendations from the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Initiative Committee, we have found that:

€ Expanding the role of the private sector is an essential component in providing conservation services to farmers.

€ Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia have developed or are developing private certification programs for nutrient management consultants.

- While the programs are generally similar, the specific requirements for nutrient management certification vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, and
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- Nutrient management consultants often provide their services in more than one jurisdiction.

€ Reciprocal certification is a useful tool to reduce overlap among jurisdictions and to streamline programs in the Bay watershed.

€ As other total resource management plan components are developed, reciprocal certification will be valuable for these programs.

THEREFORE TO FURTHER OUR COMMITMENTS MADE IN THE 1987 CHESAPEAKE BAY AGREEMENT, WE AGREE:

- € To develop reciprocal certification programs for nutrient management professionals among Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia within 12 months of adoption of certification programs by the three states;
- € To determine the feasibility of developing reciprocal certification for other total resource management components such as forestry, integrated pest management and erosion control;
- € To evaluate the use of existing national private sector certification programs in total resource management components that may be applicable in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and develop supplemental Chesapeake Bay or state specific sections for the existing certification program, if necessary.

By this DIRECTIVE, we reaffirm our commitments made in the Chesapeake Bay Agreement to restore and protect the ecological integrity, productivity and beneficial uses of the Chesapeake Bay. In recognition of our commitments, we the undersigned agree to further our efforts through this directive which is hereby incorporated into the overall Chesapeake Bay Program.

DATE: October 14, 1994

SIGNERS:

For the Commonwealth of Virginia *George F. Allen, Governor*
For the State of Maryland *William Donald Schaefer, Governor*
For the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania *Robert Casey, Governor*
For the District of Columbia *Sharon Pratt Kelly, Mayor*
For the United States of America *Carol M. Browner, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
For the Chesapeake Bay Commission *Elmo S. Cross, Jr., Chairman*

[Return to top of this document](#)

[Return to Home](#)

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